

*Release Book*

Mr. Metzler, PD (8.19.62)  
Mr. Mastroianni, Press (8.18.62)  
Miss Kirkwood, Sun Press (8.23.62)  
**FOR RELEASE**  
Mrs. Bruner, Toledo Blade (at will)  
Mr. Maag, Youngstown Vindicator  
(at will)

*MARFORD*

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### ARTIST-CRAFTSMEN OF WESTERN EUROPE

An exhibition of contemporary crafts, executed by important artist-craftsmen of Western Europe, will open at The Cleveland Museum of Art on August 23. This exhibition entitled ARTIST-CRAFTSMEN OF WESTERN EUROPE was organized by The Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York and The American Federation of Arts. It is sponsored by the governments of the eight participating countries and gives a rare opportunity to Americans to study at first hand the high artistic quality of Western European handcrafts.

The most original and significant products from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland are shown. One hundred thirty-one artists participate, each contributing examples of his particular craft produced within the past five years. The objects were personally chosen by Robert A. Laurer, Associate Director of the Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York.

Types of crafts shown in the exhibition are: glass and glass design, stained glass windows, jewelry, metalwork, ceramics, bookbinding, basket weaving, tapestries and a variety of handwoven fabrics used for wall hangings, rugs or clerical vestments.

Works from AUSTRIA, especially Vienna, display high quality craftsmanship in both traditional and contemporary forms. Particularly notable are the glass designs by Oswald Haerdtl of the Viennese Lobmeyr Company, one of the oldest and most important glass works in Europe.

Included in BELGIUM'S contribution are ceramic works by three prominent Belgian ceramists; Pierre Caille, Olivier Strebelle and Octave Landuyt. Although dominated by ceramics, the Belgian crafts also cover a wide range of other media. Mary Dambiermont, a designer for two leading Belgian tapestry factories, contributes examples of her skill. Stained glass windows, one by the internationally known Michel Martens, are on view.

FRENCH tapestry making and stained glass design have had international impact. Jean Lurcat, successful in reviving the French tapestry industry, and Mathieu Mategot exhibit their advance-style tapestries. On exhibit is stained glass by Max Ingrand, Gabriel Loire and Jean Barillet, whose windows are in buildings the world over. Pottery executed by ceramists at Vallauris, the best known pottery center in France, is also included. French bookbinding, among the world's best, is represented by the work of Henri Mercher.

From GERMANY come classic and experimental ceramics by such notable German ceramic artists as Ingeborg and Bruno Asshoff, Heiner Balzar-Kopp, Celine von Eichborn, Signe and Klaus Lehmann, Hubert Griemert, Beate Kuhn and Karl Scheid. Proficient German metalworkers are represented in the exhibition by Hans Rheindorf.

Nourished by centuries of art since the Renaissance the ITALIAN handcraft techniques have preserved the old ways and enhanced the new. In the exhibition are selections of pottery from the internationally renowned work of Nino Caruso, Marcello Fantoni, Guido Gambone, Salvatore Meli and G. B. Valentini. Choice glass from Venice and Murano made by individuals and factories such as Barovier and Toso, Barbini, Seguso, Salviati, Venini and Vianello will be on view. Italy's best known enamelist Paolo De Poli has sent his work.

THE NETHERLANDS offers The Delft experimental ceramics of Adriek Westenenk, Lies Cosijn and Sybren Valkema as well as the works of Meindert Zaalberg, dean of Dutch ceramists, potter Johan Van Loon and ceramist Jan Van der Vaart. Also shown are woven and embroidered fabrics by Greten Neter-Kahler, Ria Van Oerle Van Gorp and Gerda Beckers, and glass designs by Valkema, Floris Meydum and Willem Heesen.

In SPAIN the old and new in art exist together with new styles gradually infiltrating. Practical household objects by Manuel LaLorre Campos, Mercado de Artesania Espanola, Morato, The School of Ceramics in Madrid and The Talleres de Arte Granada dominate the Spanish exhibit.



Contemporary handcrafts know lively existence in SWITZERLAND. Examples of Swiss work exhibited are glass by the extraordinary Roberto Niederer, the ceramics of Ursel Luginbuhl, Jakob Stucki, Mario Mascarin and Margrit Linck-Daepp. The widely known ecclesiastical vestments of Sr. M. Augustina Flueler are also included as well as goldwork, some by the outstanding goldsmith Meinrad Burch-Korrodi. Woodcarving is also shown.

Most of the objects in the exhibition may be bought or ordered. The show closes on September 23.

Photos sent:

Kirkwood - Plaque "Madonna" by Hans Rheindorf from Germany

Mastroianni - Ceramic sculpture "Knight" by Jean Derval, Vallauris

Metzler - "Cat" glass by Floris Meydunn, The Netherlands

May - none

Brunner - Pottery by Julia (LaBarre)

Cat. # F-8, F-9, F-10

1) "Madonna" - Hans Rheindorf  
2) "Knight" - Jean Derval  
took these photos on Sept 4, 1962

**PRESS RELEASE from**

**THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS**

~~1083 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, New York~~ ~~Sacramento 2 2452~~

for immediate release

ARTIST-CRAFTSMEN OF WESTERN EUROPE, a major review of contemporary crafts, will be on view at \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. The exhibition is sponsored by the Governments of Austria, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland, and by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. It was organized by The Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York City and The American Federation of Arts. One hundred thirty one craftsmen are represented by several works each, chosen by Mr. Robert A. Laurer, Associate Director of The Museum of Contemporary Crafts, who spent ten weeks in Europe selecting the objects.

This exhibition gives Americans a rare opportunity to study at first hand the high artistic quality of today's Western European handcrafts. The exhibition concentrates on examples produced during the past four or five years by artist-craftsmen who conceive, design and execute unique craft objects, carrying the process through all steps from inception to completion except where it is normal procedure for designer and craftsman to collaborate, such as in the art of tapestry making. The selection stresses the most original and significant pieces now being created in countries whose craft products are, in many cases, relatively unfamiliar to American audiences.

In his foreword for the exhibition's catalog, Mr. Laurer says, "It is my impression that European craftsmen are more secure in their society than American craftsmen. Prominent artist-craftsmen occupy an honored status in Europe because



their contributions are better understood." He was impressed by the variety of expression, and says, "European handcrafts are marked by an overwhelming diversity.... It is still possible to detect in the contemporary work the character of each national culture and taste. It can be said that a monotonous international style has thus far been avoided."

Mr. Laurer speaks of the state of the craft movements in various Western European countries as follows:

"Once more Vienna asserts itself as an important art center... In craftsmanship, high standards are maintained in traditional and conservative forms, as well as in the growing body of contemporary work."

"Although dominated by ceramics, contemporary handcrafts in Belgium cover a wide range of media... Many of the craftsmen of Belgium execute commissions for churches."

"The successful revival of the French tapestry industry through the efforts of Jean Lurcat has had an international impact... The medieval stained glass master of France has his modern counterpart in the stained glass designer-craftsman who has elevated France to a position of leadership in this craft."

"The position and function of the artist-craftsman in Germany is strikingly like that of his counterpart in the United States. Numerous German craftsmen who have emigrated to the United States in the recent past have contributed much to the contemporary scene here."

"Because of their originality, Italian artists have often created styles that have influenced the evolution of the arts in the western world. Italy is known for numerous specializations in the field of craftsmanship that have developed over the centuries in certain localities."

In the Netherlands "the experimental pottery group at Delft... is an integral part of the factory... they contribute to the artistic life and prestige of the Delft factory, and illustrate the benefits stemming from an enlightened relationship between the artist-craftsman and industry in Holland."

"The current status of handcrafts in Spain is intensely interesting because of the hint of change and exciting things to come... Gradually the new styles in the arts are finding their way into Spain; meanwhile, the old and new live comfortably side by side."

✓ Austria  
✓ Belgium  
✓ France  
✓ Germany  
✓ Italy  
✓ Netherlands  
✓ Spain

"Contemporary handcrafts in Switzerland reflect the general liveliness of the arts in that country."

Switzerland

The handcrafts in the exhibition fall into two general groups: ecclesiastical objects, and practical and decorative objects for everyday use, principally for the home and on the person. Examples of the craft media included are wood carvings and glass by Oswald Haerdtl of Vienna, glass designs from Sybren Valkema, Floris Meydum and William Heesen of Leerdam, Holland, and the glass making of Roberto Niederer of Zurich; tapestries are represented with examples by Belgian artist Mary Dambiermont, and by Mathieu Mategot and Jean Lurgat of Paris both working in advanced contemporary styles.

Also included in the show are fine examples of Belgian, French, German, and Swiss bookbinding; valuable jewelry and metalwork, in many cases combined with delicate enameling; basket weaving, and a variety of handwoven fabrics including wall-hangings, clerical vestments and rugs. The grouping of stained glass windows includes some by the finest craftsmen in this field in all of Europe: Jean Barillet, Max Ingrand, and Gabriel Loire from France and Jean-Pierre Tuerlink from Belgium.

All eight countries are well represented in the exhibition by ceramic work. Examples from the potteries of Belgium include work by Pierre Caille, a craftsman relatively unknown now in the United States, but one of Europe's leading artists; Olivier Strebelle, who designs for industry and makes monumental murals for architectural use; and Octave Landuyt, who creates massive ceramic sculpture. Some of the Austrian and French ceramists represented are Rohtraut Brauneis, Kurt Ohnsorg

and Heimo and Hannes Steinböck from Vienna; and Jean Derval, R. Perot, and Gilbert Portanier from Vallauris, the best known pottery center in France. German ceramics range from classic forms to the more experimental with the work of Ingeborg and Bruno Asshoff, Heiner Balzar-Kopp, Karl Scheid and others. Some of the Italian ceramists who enjoy an international reputation are Nino Caruso, Guido Gambone, Salvatore Meli and G. B. Valentini. In Holland, the experimental pottery group at Delft, known as "De Porceleyne Fles," consist in part of Lies Cosijn, who is primarily a decorator, Adriek Westenenk and Sybren Valkema. Meindert Zaalberg is an important Dutch potter, and Johan van Loon stands out among the younger group. The ceramists of Switzerland are equally diversified with representation in the exhibition from Ursel Luginbühl, Jakob Stucki, Mario Mascarin and Margrit Linck-Daepp. In Spain the long tradition of excellence in the ceramic arts is being carried forward in our day by such craftsmen as Trinidad.

ARTIST-CRAFTSMEN OF WESTERN EUROPE, which is intended in part to further cultural exchange and understanding, should provide many surprises for the general public and prove stimulating and enlightening to craftsmen and students in this country.

Photographs available on request.